

The Thomas Maskell Store  
Corner Main and Pine Streets  
Head of Greenwich, Cumberland County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-660

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

HABS  
N.J.  
6-GREENW. N.  
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The Thomas Maskell Store  
Corner Main and Pine Streets  
Head of Greenwich, Cumberland County, New Jersey

Owner and occupant: Clinton B. Campbell

Date of Erection: Original unit 1796-1803, with 3  
additions later

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Thomas Maskell (original owner)

Present Condition: Good; still in use as a general  
store

Number of Stories: One and one-half over part cellar

Materials of Construction:

Foundation - stone masonry  
Exterior walls - timber frame, clapboarded  
Interior walls - frame, plastered  
Chimneys - brick, carried on floor joists  
of garret  
Roof - gable, wood shingled

Historical Data:

Search of title to this property as recorded  
in the county records extends back through the several  
successive owners to the year 1774 and to certain  
Samuel Ward, "practitioner of Physic", who is said(a)

(a) Samuel Ward d. 27 Feb. 1774 in 38th yr., "The  
assiduous and successful physician", per gravestone  
inscription in Presb. Cem. in village of Upper Greenwich.  
Born in Conn., he began practice in Greenwich 1760 and  
built about that time the frame house there, said Dr.  
Enoch B. Fithian (1792-1892) who later and long resided  
therein. Dr. Ward mar. 20 Jan. 1766 Phebe Holmes, b.  
14 Feb. 1739, d. 29 Aug. 1820 in 82nd yr., who mar. 2nd  
27 Feb. 1775 Dr. Moses Bloomfield of Woodbridge, N.J., as  
2nd wife. (B.A. Andrews, Colonial and Old Houses of Greenwich,  
N.J., 1907, pp. 55-65. Cf. Cushing & Sheppard, Hist. of  
Gloucester, Salem & Cumberland Counties, N.J., 1883, p. 556,  
and Vineland Hist. Magazine, XVI, 17.)

to have come from Connecticut in 1760 to the village of Greenwich, in the upper end or "Head of" which it is located, and to have erected and resided in the frame house still standing on Pine Street, the fourth one east of the corner store here considered.

In His will dated 1st January 1774 and proved 7 March next, this Doctor Samuel Ward of Cumberland County, New Jersey, stated:- "I desire that my beloved wife Phebe Ward support my nephew Stephen Ranny at learning until he may receive his first Degree at New Jersey College; also I bequeath to my newpew Stephen Ranny all my Real Estate at the death of my beloved wife Phebe Ward." Deeds by which testator acquired property are not found among those dated previous to 1795 and recorded in the books now deposited in the office of the Secretary of State; hence the source of Dr. Ward's title is not discovered.

The earliest mention of the building here surveyed is found in a deed of 13 September 1810 by which Hannah Maskell of Camden, Gloucester County, N.J., conveyed to David Sheppard of Greenwich, Cumberland County, for \$1800, "Two certain pieces of parcels of land adjoining each other, on the main road, situated at the upper side of the town of Greenwich(b), where Frances Redstreak now lives." Lot no. 1 "where the Store stands", is therein described as bounded south by the road (Pine Street) to Roadstown, being opposite the Presbyterian Meeting House, east by land of the Fithians, north by Pine Mount Run, and west by the Main Street, containing 5½ acres, "Together with all the fencings, orchards, buildings and improvements." Lot no. 2, of 35 acres, is described as being adjacent to no. 1. Recital of grantor's title to the said lands

(b) Before the Revolutionary War it can hardly be said that there were any towns in the County. Greenwich was the place of most business up to the beginning of the present century. The stores there contained the largest assortment of goods.....Wood and Sheppard's store 1786.....They transacted so large a business as to make it worthwhile to have bonds printed payable to them. The river forming an excellent harbor, vessels traded direct to the West Indies and other places; but as New York overshadowed Greenwich or Cohansey. (L.Q.C. Elmer, History of Cumberland County, N.J., 1869, p. 13).

by devise in the will of her father, Thomas Maskell<sup>(c)</sup> of Greenwich, dated 9 March 1803 and proved 2 February 1804, is made in this deed, also that the latter bought the property from Stephen Ranny of Middletown, Conn., by deed of 4 April 1796, and that Ranny was devisee thereof by the will of "Samuel Ward late of Greenwich, practitioner of Physic, deceased." From this evidence, it appears that the store was erected by Thomas Maskell, between 1796 and 1803.

David Sheppard<sup>(d)</sup> who thus became owner in 1810 of the store (and the adjacent house formerly of Dr. Ward), conveyed the same two lots as one by deed of 14 November 1826 to his son Providence L. Sheppard, for \$1800, both parties being described therein as of Greenwich.

This grantee, Providence L. Sheppard and wife Ruth conveyed to Joseph Tomlinson of Greenwich Township, Cumberland County, in consideration of \$850, a two acre corner lot from the larger tract, describing it as having a frontage of 23 perches on the northeast side of the road to Canton and of  $12\frac{1}{2}$  perches on the northwest side of the road to Roadstown, reciting grantor's title as heir-at-law of David Sheppard in the division of the latter's real estate, and including the buildings.

(c) Thomas Maskell, Esq., d. 9 Sept. 1803 in 83rd yr.; Esther, relict of Thomas Maskell, d. 11 Sept. 1805 in 58th yr. (F.B. Andrews, Tombstone Inscriptions in the old Presbyterian Burial Ground at Greenwich, N.J., publ. 1915, pp. 30 & 31.) Thomas Maskell 3rd was appointed sheriff of Cumberland Co. 1769 and held the office 3 years. (B.A. Andrews, Colonial & Old Houses of Greenwich, N.J., publ. 1907, pp. 67-69.)

(d) David Sheppard, 1758-1827, son of Joseph and Mary Sheppard, mar. 1st in 1783 Phebe Ludlam, who d. 1799, dau. of Providence and Sarah Ludlam, and had issue viz. Sarah mar. Wm. Walker; Joseph b. 9th of 1st mo. 1786, elected pastor of First Baptist Ch. at Salem, N.J., 1809; Providence Ludlam, b. 21st of 2nd mo. 1788, mar. Mary Letson of New Brunswick, N.J.; William Ludlam d. 1823 unm.; David twin with William b. in 6 mo. 1790; Ercurius mar. Martha Lupardus of New Brunswick; and Ebenezer, b. 23.7.1798, d. 1814. By 2nd wife, Miriam Smith, widow of Isaac Smith, David Sheppard had issue viz. Mary mar. 1824 Jonathan J. Hann, and Isaac A. b. 1806. (Thomas Shourds, History and Genealogy of Fenwick's Colony, 1876, p. 209).

Joseph Tomlinson, the grantee, died intestate 22 November 1831 in his 35th year\* in Greenwich. On 26 December 1831, the inventory of the goods and chattels of his estate was made. The first item in this is "One half of the store goods and other stock belonging to the firm of Tomlinson and Flanagan." By deed of 5 February 1833, the heirs of said Joseph Tomlinson, late of Greenwich, deceased, conveyed the same two acre corner lot to his partner, Noah H. Flanagan of same place, for \$600. Subsequently, by deed of 8 January 1836, Flanagan and wife Maria and Daniel Kelsay, all of Greenwich, sold to Enoch and Robert J. Fithian of same place, for \$1000 one acre and 36 square perches of the lot, (being the corner part thereof on which stands the building here considered) having a frontage of only 8 rods on the northeast side of Main Street, "with all things thereto appertaining". The two Fithians in turn sold the same lot to Ebenezer Harmer of Greenwich for \$1000 and conveyed it by deed of 31 October 1838.

The grantee, Ebenezer Harmer(e) occupied it thereafter and continued storekeeping. By deed of 17 December 1845, he and his wife Hannah of Greenwich Township, conveyed the same "certain House and lot" of one acre and 36 square rods to John Welsh of Lower Alloways Creek Township, Salem County, for \$2000. By his will dated 27 March 1848 and proved 2 May next, this John Welsh, of Greenwich (and evidently occupying the property there acquired as above) devised 1/3 of his real estate to his wife Eliza Ann during her lifetime and 2/3 to his son Aaron W. and daughter Lydia S. Welsh.

By deed of 28 February 1865, these two devisees, Aaron W. Welch and Lydia S., wife of Robert Bostwick, all of Queen Ann's County, Maryland, conveyed to Ercurius Stathem of Greenwich Township, Cumberland County, New Jersey, for \$1200, the same "Certain House and lot" in the latter place, with "all and singular the buildings". Stathem and wife Ann conveyed it to John F. Keen and David J. Stathem, all of Greenwich, by deed of 30 November 1867, for \$1200, and Keen conveyed

\* Gravestone in Presbyterian Cemetery across Main Street from the store.

(e) Tax Assessor's List for Greenwich Twp. 1843, includes: Ebenezer Harmer, and store, \$14.41. (F.D. Andrews, Residents of Greenwich, New Jersey, 1843, publ. 1916).

his interest to Stathem by deed of 19 January 1876.<sup>(f)</sup> By his will dated 25 March 1870 and proved 28 January 1914, David J. Stathem<sup>(g)</sup> of Greenwich (who died 17 January 1914) devised his estate, after payment of debts, to his wife Sarah H. Stathem, and she as widow conveyed the one acre and 32 square rods corner store property (above described) to Charles L. Harris, both parties being of Greenwich, for \$2200, by her deed of 23 March 1916, reciting her title under the terms of the will of her husband. Harris held title until 25 October 1939, on which date he gave deed to Clinton B. Campbell and wife Reba R., all of Greenwich Township, conveying the same property to them. Mr. Campbell remains as owner and occupant of the store at the time of our survey thereof in July 1940.

Reference:

Search of title in the land and probate records of Cumberland County by Oscar F. Benjamin, H.A.B.S. research editor, and William Brown, H.A.B.S. abstractor, reported 8 July 1940

Lewis D. Cook  
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams  
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.  
District Officer

(f) D.J. Stewart, Atlas Map of Cumberland Co., publ. 1876, p. 26, shows "Store, D. J. Stathem" at N.E. cor. of Greenwich and Pine Sts. in Upper Greenwich village and the Presbyterian Ch. at S.E. cor. of same. Ibid, p. vii, says "Greenwich now contains six general stores, two Friends Meetings, a Presbyterian and a Baptist Church, a hotel and post office. Its population is fairly estimated at 800. The village is one of the most thriving and prosperous in the County and still possesses many of the same natural advantages which constituted its importance in its earlier years."

(g) "David J. Stathem, the well-known merchant of North Greenwich" (B.A. Andrews, Colonial & Old Houses of Greenwich, N.J., 1907, p. 78)